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Consolidated
Edition
Torrance Herald
and Lomita News

ONLY NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHED IN TORRANCE

Torrance Herald

OVER 60,000 PEOPLE LIVE
WITHIN 5-MILE RADIUS

One
Section
8 Pages
This Issue

NINETEENTH YEAR—No. 20

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1933

PER COPY 5c

Up Go Prices!

An Editorial

Merchants in Torrance and elsewhere throughout the Southland are already feeling the upward trend of commodity prices, resulting from the administration's program of raising prices on all staple articles to pre-war levels. Still further increases in most lines of merchandise are expected in the very near future. Retailers and wholesalers are being advised daily of impending advances and are told to buy now, or pay more later.

So far, the increases are being absorbed by Torrance merchants, but this condition cannot exist indefinitely. As additional goods are bought to replenish present retail stocks, the higher wholesale prices are bound to be reflected in increased retail price tags.

If you need clothes, furniture, tires, unperishable food, or indeed, any type of merchandise, you are assured of substantial savings in the future if you lay in plentiful supplies now. Prudent shoppers, mindful of the advances sure to come, are already buying, as is reflected in the increased business now being done by Torrance merchants. Many local stores report the best April volume of business in three years. In spite of the unfavorable weather conditions, many buyers are anticipating their summer requirements and are buying hot-weather needs now.

The upswing has definitely begun. BUY NOW, if you want to benefit by the present record-low prices. In a few weeks your dollar will not buy nearly as much as it will today.

Auxiliary Members Prepare For Annual Poppy Day, May 27

"The patriotic spirit of America, which enabled the nation to put forth its greatest World War effort is symbolized in the red memorial poppy," the Bert S. Crossland Unit 170, American Legion Auxiliary, declared today as the unit members prepared for observance of the annual Poppy Day here, Saturday, May 27.

"The poppy is the badge of remembrance for those who sacrificed their lives in the country's service," they said. "It stands for the highest conceivable type of patriotism. It recalls the spirit of those days when every American was dedicating his energies and resources to the national cause and when life itself was not too much to give for the country."

"Remembering these days, it is difficult to understand how Americans can be daunted by the coun-

try's present difficulties. A people who only 15 short years ago united with such devotion and energy to meet a war emergency, most certainly have the power to meet emergencies of peace. The poppy, that symbol of patriotic sacrifice, should awaken in all our hearts a deeper conception of our own duties to our country today and inspire us to give in peace the type of service the men who died among the poppies in France gave in time of war."

Volunteer workers from the American Legion Auxiliary will offer poppies for sale Saturday, May 27. The poppies have been made by disabled veterans and all contributions received will be used for the auxiliary's relief and rehabilitation work among the disabled men and their families.

City Council Called Before Co. Grand Jury

To Assist In Strengthening Building Code Against Earthquakes

Mayor W. T. Klusman, the four other members of the city council, together with City Engineer Frank Leonard and City Attorney J. R. Jensen, were called into Los Angeles this afternoon by the county grand jury. When the communications from the grand jury were received at the city hall, they created some anxiety, until the purpose of the summons was learned, which is to assist the grand jury to perfect a uniform building code throughout Southern California which will eliminate earthquake hazards.

Following the meeting with the grand jury, members of the Torrance city council plan to confer with an eminent engineer in Los Angeles regarding the proposed municipal water system.

Five-Cent Fare On Busses In Torrance

The Motor Coach Company, operating through this city, has been authorized by the railroad commission to establish a five-cent fare instead of a ten-cent fare for carrying passengers locally within the boundaries of Torrance. The rate will be applied along the route of the coach service from the intersection of Arlington and El Camino Real (Sepulveda boulevard) to the intersection of Cedar street and Torrance boulevard. The rate will be effective beginning June 1 until December 1.

Dominic Bessone Hearing Is Set For Next Tuesday

Dominic Bessone, charged with manslaughter on two counts, and driving an automobile while under the influence of liquor, was brought down from the jail ward of the county hospital Wednesday afternoon, to be arraigned in Judge Dennis' court on the charges brought against him following a disastrous accident on Hawthorne boulevard two weeks ago when the two children of Andrew Randazzo, 402 Hawthorne boulevard, Torrance, were burned to death, and others of the family injured.

Bessone was guarded by Deputies Blaisdel and Dickinson of the homicide squad of the sheriff's office. After the formal arraignment, he was placed under \$5000 bond on one count of manslaughter and on the illegal driving charge, and was removed to the county jail to await his preliminary hearing as he was unable to make bond. The hearing will be held at 10 o'clock May 23 in the justice court in Torrance.

Mrs. Kate King Called By Death

Mrs. Kate King, mother of Mrs. John B. Speed, passed away at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Speed, 1327 Andros avenue, last night shortly before 8 o'clock. Mrs. King had been an invalid for years. Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock from Stone & Myers chapel. The family requests that no flowers be sent.

COUNCILMAN HITCHCOCK'S BROTHER DIES SUDDENLY

Councilman and Mrs. J. E. Hitchcock returned yesterday from Richmond, California, where they attended the funeral of Mr. Hitchcock's brother, Charles Hitchcock, who died suddenly at his home in Richmond last week.

Forty Bank of America Chiefs To Visit Here

Delegation Headed By Dr. Giannini to Inspect Steel Plant Tomorrow Night

Forty officials of the Bank of America, including Dr. A. H. Giannini, chairman of the executive committee and Vice President Orra E. Monette, will be in Torrance tomorrow evening, according to J. W. Leech, manager of the Torrance branch of Bank of America. The purpose of the bankers' visit is to inspect the Columbia Steel Company's plant here, and get first hand knowledge of the huge steel mills' potentialities. B. W. Lanz, plant manager, and other Columbia executives will conduct the delegation through the steel mill, which is now running day and night shifts.

City to Obtain Apportionment of Gasoline Taxes

Legislature Adopts Bill to Divide Funds With Cities

Torrance residents today were awaiting receipt of official word from the state legislature as to just what amount this city will receive in a direct apportionment of the state gasoline tax, by the terms of a bill adopted by the legislature just before adjournment.

Secondly, local city officials were awaiting official word as to just what local highways are included in the 6600 miles of new roadways added to the state's secondary system, in another bill adopted just before adjournment. Figueroa street from the harbor to Palmdale was included in the system, according to wire dispatches.

One-quarter cent from the three-cent tax collected by the state is hereafter to be allocated directly to this city, on the basis of 1932 automobile registration. The county board of supervisors has hoped to secure passage of a bill that provided for three-fourths of a cent to each city, or half the amount now received by the county supervisors.

An amendment under which the Los Angeles county supervisors would have had administered the one-fourth cent was stricken out by the state senate. Detailed information as to just what this bill will receive under the new city is expected to be known within a week. Word also is expected next week as to what local highways were added to the state system.

The legislature left it up to the voters to decide whether or not \$8,779,000 should be diverted from state gasoline tax revenues to the general fund for payment of bond interest and redemption on outstanding highway bonds for the biennium ending next June 30. This will be an added proposition on the ballot at the special state election called for June 27.

The legislature has recessed until July 17, when it will dispose of the matters voted upon at the special election.

Torrance School Boys Get Outing At Laguna Beach

William Bell, Jr., principal of the Torrance Elementary school, will escort 75 boys of Torrance between the ages of 10 and 12 to Laguna Beach Saturday for a week-end camping trip, which will make its headquarters at the Bell home in the southern city.

Arrangements were made to transport the group by school buses, and a full program of swimming, hiking, and other outdoor sports, with a movie for the Saturday night entertainment, has been arranged. Neil Lenz, teacher of agriculture, and six older boys will assist Mr. Bell in taking care of the boys and carrying out the program. They will return to Torrance Sunday afternoon.

This is the first time in five years that Mr. Bell has arranged for such a trip which was formerly an annual affair.

A Frank Statement To Our Community

By James W. Post

I am aware that there are many rumors and conflicting statements abroad during the period since March 2nd when the banks were closed on a legal holiday and at the present time because of the fact that the First National Bank of Torrance has not reopened.

As a preface I would like to state that there are approximately 3000 unopened banks in the country today, and our friends should take into consideration that our town is dependent almost entirely upon industries and considering the national condition of industrial organizations, they should have forebearance when citing the reasons for our failure to reopen. Neither I, nor the directors or stockholders have anything to conceal or evade, but to the contrary it is our desire that every one of our depositors understand perfectly all of the circumstances pertaining to the present situation. When we failed to receive a license to reopen on March 13th, we were dumbfounded, to express it mildly, as our bank in spite of the decrease of deposits as shown by the table below, was in strong position, or rather in what would be a strong position in normal times. You will note that in four and one-third years our depositors have withdrawn \$324,000.00 reducing our deposits of \$1,118,198.89 on December 31, 1928, to \$794,198.89 on March 29, 1933, or a 75% loss in deposits. To my mind this statement should explain our situation more clearly than anything I can possibly say.

We have been aware of conditions for the past three years and have brought our investment in bonds and bills receivable from \$1,018,616.56 in 1930 to \$479,582.40 in 1933, but we found that we could not liquidate them in proportion to deposit withdrawals.

We have been in business in Torrance since May 2nd, 1913, and we justly claim credit for the advancement of real estate and business values since that time. We could, plainly speaking, have wrecked our city once or two years ago and saved our stockholders investment in the bank by calling all loans and thereby forcing into bankruptcy the major portion of the business houses of the city, as well as individuals, yet we have been criticized for being too lenient, too patient, with men who have been and who still constitute the life blood of our city.

The bank has been examined and we are informed that before the bank can reopen, we must charge off all notes classified by the examiner as losses, doubtful and slow. This came as a surprise to us because of the fact that many loans listed as slow and doubtful are secured by a considerable margin on real estate and local securities and we have every reason to believe that they can and will be paid within the period of one and two years.

I wish to state that almost the entire worth of the major stockholders of the bank is at stake, and I ask, is it not reasonable to presume that we are making every effort possible to reopen the bank and to save their investments as well as to see that our depositors do not suffer any loss?

If the community could understand our position, realize what we have to contend with, I know that there would not be one word of criticism directed against us. If we can be allowed a reasonable time, I am sure that we can re-establish our condition, that all of our borrowers, in order to save your bank as well as your city, will place their notes in acceptable form, and thereby once more place your community bank in a position that will always be a factor in the advancement of our city.

This has always been a community bank and our most valued and prized asset is and always will be the faith and confidence of

TREND OF DEPOSITS OVER FIVE-YEAR PERIOD			
DATE	DEMAND	SAVINGS	TOTAL
12-31-28	\$710,953.08	\$407,245.81	\$1,118,198.89
12-31-29	568,328.41	433,307.18	1,001,635.59
12-31-30	428,436.52	377,610.03	806,046.55
12-31-31	331,311.14	333,784.54	665,095.68
12-31-32	187,139.40	249,193.63	436,333.03
3-29-33	145,392.83	138,263.59	283,656.42

our friends and depositors and all we ask is that we may be allowed to retain it.

After twenty years in business there are probably people who are unfriendly to us and who may take this opportunity to criticize us, but we feel very grateful and wish to express our gratitude to the many friends who have been and are giving us their loyal support.

If there are any doubts or misunderstandings, I am always glad to explain them to the best of my ability.

JAMES W. POST,
President First National Bank of Torrance.

Special State Election Called To Vote On Bond Issue

Torrance residents have until midnight tonight, May 18, to register for the special state election to be held June 27, according to announcement today by W. M. Kerr, county registrar of voters.

Foremost in interest on the special ballot, which is expected to set a new mark in balloting throughout the county and state, is the \$22,000,000 unemployed relief bond issue.

For property owners in the recent earthquake zone, interest will run high in the constitutional amendment which would provide for reassessment of damaged property.

Election of delegates to a convention to act on repeal of the Eighteenth amendment is expected to raise additional wet and dry arguments.

Approval of the legislature's tax program, evolved from the original plan offered by State Controller Ray L. Riley also will be before the voters. A second bond issue, for \$55,000,000 for the relief of irrigation districts, will be on the ballot.

Another constitutional amendment would permit boards of supervisors to regulate employment and salaries of county officers, rather than have the legislature pass county government bills, as at present.

Whether or not certain private

Rev. Wonder Begins Third Year As Pastor

Rev. O. D. Wonder, pastor of the Central Evangelical church, was returned to this charge at the recent meeting of the Evangelical conference held last week. Mr. Wonder is beginning his third year as minister at this church, and his congregation and many friends in the city are gratified at his return.

SMALL FIRE

The Torrance fire department was called to put out a small fire in a garage at the rear of the residence occupied by H. R. Thompson, 804 Cota avenue Tuesday. Loss was about \$2.00. The fire originated in a pile of rubbish.

OIL COMPANY ROBBED

The General Petroleum Corporation reported to Sub-station No. 2, sheriff's office, that a number of tools and other equipment had been stolen from the Fogel lease at Normandie and Lomita boulevard, May 12. There were no clues.

Mrs. Bowen Is New President Business Club

N. B. P. W. Entering On Third Year of Existence

Forty members and guests of the National Business and Professional Women of Torrance were present to welcome the new president, Mrs. Laila P. Bowen, on the occasion of her induction into the office, following the election held May 6. The charming affair was held Tuesday evening at the Christian church parlors, with Mrs. Mary Wiley Eisen, of Los Angeles, as installing officer.

The dinner tables were decorated with baskets of flowers and a small taper at each place as favors.

Following the dinner, Miss Wanda Stachowicz sang the club song, "The Golden Key," and Mrs. Eisen, assisted by Mrs. Stella Alkire, vice president at large of the Los Angeles district, took charge of the installation. The candle-lighting ceremony was used, the members lighting their small tapers from the larger ones presented to the officers in token of their continued loyalty and cooperation.

Other officers for the year are Miss Edna Mullin, vice president; Miss Jessie Cox, recording secretary; Miss Edna Schmidt, corresponding secretary; Miss Grace Fennel, treasurer; Mrs. Orda Pietzke, auditor. Outgoing officers were Mrs. Juliet M. Young, president; Mrs. Victoria Olinzer, recording secretary; Miss Beatrice Hughes, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Grace Dean, treasurer.

Guests at this meeting were W. E. Bowen, and Mrs. Mary P. Peer, Miss Vera Albright, Mrs. Dunn, of Los Angeles; Mrs. Mae Greenman, and the installing officers. The name of Miss Clementina de Forest Griffin, principal of Narbonne high school, as a candidate for membership was presented at this time.

CITIZENS PETITION COUNCIL FOR ACTION ON WATER PLANT

Nearly 2000 Expected to Sign Plea For Immediate Construction; 1217 Already Sign Petition; Will "Storm" City Hall Next Tuesday

A petition which seems destined to be signed by a large majority of the water consumers in Torrance, and which asks for immediate construction of a new municipal water system in Torrance will be presented to the city council at its meeting Tuesday evening next week. The petition is being circulated by W. Rufus Page with the assistance of Luther Hyde and Ralph Hoerr. Up to last evening, 1217 residents of Torrance had signed, and Mr. Page stated that before the request was presented to the city council, he expected that it would contain the signatures of over 2000. The petition reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned residents and water-users of Torrance, California, respectfully petition your honorable body to proceed IMMEDIATELY with the issuance and sale of the bonds voted on September 25, 1930, by a vote of 1362 to 168; and as soon as they are sold we want you to proceed IMMEDIATELY with the construction of the new water system.

"We have confidence in the City Engineer of the CITY OF TORRANCE and want his valuations on the water plant of the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company accepted without question if there are any negotiations for the purchase of any part or all of its system. We are sick and tired of the quality and price of the present water supply and the delay in installing our own plant and want IMMEDIATE ACTION. Dated May 15, 1933."

The circulation of the petition is believed to have been prompted by the alleged dilatory attitude of Mayor W. T. Klusman, who is chairman of the city council's water committee. Mayor Klusman has opposed the attempts of Councilman Scott Ludlow to bring the water question out of committee and into the hands of the council as a whole, on the plea that the committee was waiting for further data from officials of the Torrance Water, Light & Power Company.

Members of the city council are in Los Angeles this afternoon, and expect to confer with a well-known engineer with the view of engaging his services as consultant to work with City Engineer Frank Leonard. The meeting with the Los Angeles engineer, previously arranged for Tuesday evening, was postponed on account of the absence of Councilman Hitchcock due to the death of his brother.

Mr. Page stated that he expected the council chamber would be packed to capacity next Tuesday evening when the petition is presented, as many of the signers indicated that they would be present at the meeting.

President



MRS. LAILA P. BOWEN

Half of Airport Offered As Base For Big Cruiser

Navy Department Considers Proposal to Use Mines Field

The world's largest dirigible, the Macon, will be a frequent sight over Torrance and other cities up and down the Southern California coast if the offer of Los Angeles city, which arrived in Washington today is accepted by the navy department.

Use of half the Los Angeles municipal airport along the Roosevelt highway, adjoining the city of Inglewood, was offered the navy department as an auxiliary base for the dirigible. The offer, made in a resolution adopted unanimously, pointed out that with the closing of the naval air station at Lakehurst there remained but one permanent base at Sunnyvale.

Sponsors of the move pointed out today that since the fleet is berthed much of the time at Los Angeles harbor the dirigible's presence in Southern California would be necessitated for tactical maneuvers. It would be desirable to have a suitable field for the giant queen of the skies to land to refuel, or to take on additional quantities of helium, as well as food, it was pointed out, without having to return to its home base at Sunnyvale in the northern part of the state.

Former Pastor To Speak At Central

Rev. E. L. Weatherwax of Napa, California, a former minister of Central Evangelical church, will be the guest of Central church next Sunday morning and will preach the sermon. Rev. Weatherwax will be lovingly remembered by many of the older citizens of Torrance. A cordial invitation is extended to all his friends to hear him next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

NEW UNIT TO OPEN

June 15 is the date fixed for the opening of the county's new \$12,000,000 acute unit of the general hospital.

Catholic Bazaar Will Close With Notable Program

Nativity Church Arranges Afternoon and Evening Affair

A well chosen program featuring Spanish entertainers and well-known local musicians will close the bazaar to be given by the Church of the Nativity at the Torrance Woman's club on the afternoon and evening of Thursday, May 25.

The afternoon will be given in the usual bazaar activities, followed by a dinner served from 5:30 to 8:00 o'clock.

The evening program will be opened by Manuel Perez, noted Hollywood interpreter of Spanish song and character dancing. Senor Perez has the unusual ability to create a rare atmosphere of reality in his characterizations. He is an artist who will give a performance displaying all the temperament and fervor of the Latin race. His costumes are of the most exquisite beauty, which will add to the charm and interest of his performances.

Others who will take part in the program are Miss Wanda Stachowicz, grand opera singer and concert star; Ramona Montez, little niece of Senor Perez, and Miss Matilde Hoff, of Los Angeles, dance artist and teacher.

The program as arranged will be as follows: "El Flamenco" The Andalusian Dandy; and "El Gaucho" by Manuel Perez.

Spanish Dance, Ramona Montez, "Estrellita," Miss Wanda Stachowicz, "Jarabe," Miss Matilde Hoff, "Male quartet in popular songs," "The Bull Fight," Manuel Perez.

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